MADRAS WAR REVIEW

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DIARY OF THE WAR

6th Dec.—Greeks occupy the Italian supply base and port of Santi Quaranta. Argyrocastro, the capital of South Western Albania, falls to the Greeks. Greek forces are advancing along the valleys of the river Skumbi, Devoli and Osun towards Elbasan and Berat. Valona, the Albanian seaport has been bombed by the Royal Air Force.

Nazi raids on Britain: The chief target was Bristol which was showered with high explosives and incendiary bombs.

The armed merchant cruiser *H.M.S. Carnarvon Castle* was engaged in action with a fast and heavily armed German raider in the South Atlantic on 5th December 1940. She received slight damage and there were some casualties.

Marshal Badoglio has been relieved "at his own request" of his office as Chief of the General Staff of the Italian armed forces by a Royal decree. General Ugo Cavaleiro has been appointed in succession.

There is no change in the situation in the Western Desert. In Gallabat area British fighting patrols attack and drive of an enemy machine-gun post.

M. Richard Brunot, former High Commissioner in the Cameroons offers his services to General de Gaulle. He has been put in charge of the colonial section of the Free French Headquarters.

British bombers attack enemy aerodromes in occupied Belgium and Northern France, docks at Calais, Dunkirk and Boulogne.

Death penalty for persons instigating or carrying out an armed revolt and hard labour for those intentionally participating in such movement have been instituted under a decree in Rumania.

7th Dec.—Italians are retiring all the way along the Southern front from Santi Quaranta to Premeti. Delvino has been occupied by the Greeks. Royal Air Force bomb Valona port and Italian shipping off the Albanian coast.

President Roosevelt has pledged American aid to Greece in an exchange of messages with King George the Second.

General Cesare de Vecchi, Commander of the Italian forces based on the Aegean, has been relieved of his command "at his request." General Bastico has been appointed Governor of the Dodecanese and Commander of their armed forces.

There was no enemy air activity over England.

British artillery in the Sudan hammer away at Italian positions east of Metamma. British guns are also active on the area north of Kassala.

Royal Air Force attack important industrial targets in Dusseldorf area. Other targets attacked include ports of Antwerp, Dunkirk, Calais and Boulogne. Coastal command aircraft attack naval ship yards and docks at L'Orient and Brest. Brest underwent the most severe battering. A powerful force attack Walzwerke blast furnaces and steelworks. Nearly 4,000 incendiary bombs as well as a very large number of high explosives have been dropped.

8th Dec.—Admiral Cavagnari, Chief of the Italian Naval Staff and Under Secretary of State for the Navy has resigned "at his own request." Admiral Arturo Riccardi is appointed the Chief of the Naval Staff and Under Secretary of State for the Navy.

The battle for Elbasan was resumed.

Royal Air Force bombers attack Benina aerodrome in the Western desert. A Rhodesian squadron bomb Adardeb in Italian East Africa. Royal Air Force bomb heavily Castel Benito, a town in Tripoli. News from Vichy suggests that M. Laval has been losing ground both with the Germans and Marshal Petain. Probably with a view to bring extra pressure on M. Laval the Germans are conniving at bringing about the admission of M. Flandin into the French Cabinet.

After some fairly peaceful weeks London again experienced a heavy raid. Nazi planes rained bombs on the sleeping city.

Royal Air Force attack for the third time in one week industrial and military targets in the Dusseldorf area. Submarine base at L'Orient and shipping and harbour installations in Bordeaux and Brest also bombed. Ports of Lushing, Dunkirk and Gravelines and several enemy aerodromes also attacked. Two British air craft are missing.

9th Dec.—Greeks are advancing cautiously towards Chimarra, 22 miles west of Argyrocastro. The movement threatens the flank of the Italians who are withdrawing northwards from Santi Quaranta.

The following statement has been made by Mr. Matsuoka, Foreign Minister of Japan in regard to Japan's future policy since she signed the Three-Power Pact: "Japan would certainly have to fight if the United States went to war with Germany. Japan's foreign policy

will henceforth revolve round the Three-Power Pact just as it used to revolve round the alliance with Britain."

The British Imperial Forces in the Western Desert began operations on a scale larger than any yet initiated in Africa since the start of the war. The British forces began their attack on Italian positions just south of Sidi Barrani capturing within an hour an Italian armed camp. In the first defended area which was overrun, some 500 prisoners and war material were captured. Later in the day a further advance was made, more prisoners and more war material having been captured. Working in close co-operation with the army the Royal Air Force aircraft harassed enemy troops in the Western Desert throughout the day. The Royal Navy also assisted in the attack.

There is little enemy air activity over England. An enemy bomber has been shot down into the North Sea by British fighters.

Royal Air Force bomb aircraft factory at Bremen, naval base at L'Orient and docks at Boulogne. One bomber shoots down an enemy fighter and a British aircraft is missing. Fires also started by the Royal Air Force at French invasion ports, the worst being in and around Calais.

10th Dec.—Operations in the Western Desert are successfully continuing. Prisoners so far captured by the British Imperial Forces are reported to exceed 4,000 and a number of medium tanks have been taken. In Gallabat area patrolling activity supported by artillery fire continues. British armed units operating on the rear of Sidi Barrani have cut off part of two Italian divisions. Royal Air Force bombard all Italian aerodromes in the Libyan Desert. Two enemy camps, troop concentrations and a motor transport have been repeatedly bombed. Six enemy aircraft have been shot down while three others have been damaged. Further enemy aircraft destroyed on Eladen aerodrome. In Bardia and Sollum area bombs have been dropped on motor transport concentrations. The Fleet Air Arm co-operates with the Royal Air Force in attacking barracks in Bardia and Sollum.

The Greeks have reached Piqeras, about 15 miles north of Santi Quaranta. In the Central Sector Kelcyre is reported to have been evacuated by Italians.

Royal Air Force again bomb Valona.

A large fire has broken out in the Rumanian oil zone in Prahova Valley.

Britain has agreed in principle to lend £10,000,000 to China. An advance of 5 millions would be made to the Chinese Stabilization Fund. The remaining 5 millions would be made available for purchases in any part of the sterling area.

A further decrease in shipments of vital iron and steel to Japan is expected to result from an order issued by President Roosevelt, placing iron ore, pig iron, ferro-alloys and " certain iron and steel manufactures and semi-manufactures " under export licence control. The order comes into force on December 30.

Royal Air Force attack railway junctions, power stations, aerodromes and inland docks in Western Germany and occupied territory. Two aircrafts are missing.

11th Dec.—Sidi Barrani has been captured with a large number of prisoners including three Generals. Advance British elements are now pressing onward from Sidi Barrani. Another 2,000 prisoners have been taken in the Western Desert making a total of 6,000. Swift moving tanks are reported to be systematically cleaning up enemy pockets as the army of the Nile continues the offensive against Marshal Graziani's legions. While the British planes punish the Italians from above, armoured units rove the scrub-covered sand-hills below seeking out Italian machine-gun nests.

The Greeks have made another small advance in the neighbourhood of Pogradetz. North of Argyrocastro the Greeks have reached the village of Kodre in the Tepelini area. The Italian Government has proclaimed death penalty for discussing the Italo-Greek war in a manner harmful to Italy's reputation. An important source of oil supply is menaced by the Greek push in North Albania directed towards Skumbi river valley. After putting up an artillery barrage the Greeks advance on the northern flanks of the Mokra Mountains under the protective fire of machine-guns and trench mortars.

A column of Italian-armoured motor-cycles, passing through Lin. north of Pogradetz, has been ambushed by the Greeks and eleven motor-cycles have been captured Groups of Italians are crossing the border to surrender to the Yugoslav authorities.

The British Government have rejected the plans sponsored by private organizations in the United States to send food to German-occupied countries.

The Free French Movement is gaining ground in Syria. Evidence of the growing strength of the Free French movement in the Far East is furnished by the appointment by General de Gaulle of a representative, M. Guy de Schompre, a former consular official in Tientsin. The Free French Forces have taken part in the Egyptian offensive in co-operation with British Forces. Advanced units of French troops have taken a number of prisoners and war material in Sidi Barrani. At the frontier of Chad and Libya Free French forces have completely occupied a zone of French territory which should have been evacuated under the Armistice terms.

Serious damage is believed to have been caused to Addis Ababa-Jibuti railway by a Royal Air Force raid.

Air raid over England. A West Midland town (Birmingham) is the chief target of German raiders. Elsewhere activity has been less though a certain amount of damage has been done. The attack on Birmingham area is reported to be very severe. Six churches, 11 schools and two cinemas are hit. Other house property also hit. Losses: Enemy 4; British nil.

Royal Air Force nightly raid on enemy territory. Invasion ports, aerodromes in German-occupied territory, power stations, inland docks and railway yards are hit. The docks at Calais, Boulogne and Naples are also badly knocked.

12th Dec.—Lord Lothian, British Ambassador at Washington, is dead.

A general Italian retreat is developing in the Western Desert. The latest estimate of prisoners taken exceeds 20,000 with tanks, guns and equipment of all types. Sebastiano Gallina, Corps Commander and Amando Pescator and Mezzari, both Divisional Commanders have been captured. Two Italian divisions, between 14,000 and 17,000 men are believed to be bottled up in the Sidi Barrani area. Indian troops have played a leading part in the operations which have resulted in the capture of Sidi Barrani.

Sollum and Bardia have been heavily bombarded by the British Navy. Other British Naval units bombard Kismayu in Italian Somaliland inflicting damage on Italian supplies.

The Greeks have advanced about 2 miles along the coastal road and are now slightly to the north of the village of Kelcyre. The weather continues to be extremely bad and communications on the front must necessarily be slowed up. The left flank of the Italian army is retreating to the heights of Khiamarra.

A Hungaro-Yugoslav Friendship Pact has been signed at Belgrade.

WAR IN THE AIR

The following are the details of the British raids from home bases on enemy territory in Europe, ascertained by competent authorities for the week ending 3rd December 1940 :—

Date.	Targets.	British losses.	Enemy losses.
November 27, Wednesday.	R. A. F. day attacks on ships off Frisian Islands (2 sunk). R. A. F. night raids on Cologne (railway stations and yards in Gereon and Nippes districts, Rhine docks, Hohenzollern Bridge power station, Humboldt works); invasion bases at Antwerp, Le Havre, Boulogne; aerodromes.	1	..
November 28, Thursday.	R. A. F. night raids on Stettin (Stettiner-Oderwerke naval shipbuilding yards, synthetic oil plant at Politz); Coblenz (railway yards, aerodrome); Dusseldorf (arms factories, gas works, Neuff railway yards); submarine engine works at Mannheim; inland port at Ludwigshaven; bridges, roads and railways on both banks of the Rhine; aerodrome at Eindhoven (Holland); docks and shipping from Cuxhaven to Antwerp, Boulogne and Le Havre.	2	..
November 29, Friday.	R. A. F. day attacks on ships off N. Dutch coast (1 sunk). R. A. F. night raids on Cologne (Rhine docks, railways); Bremen (Deutsche-Schieff and Maschinenbav naval shipbuilding yards); invasion bases at Boulogne and Le Havre; submarine base at L'Orient; aerodromes.	Nil.	..
November 30, Saturday.	Night raids cancelled owing to weather	.	..
December 1, Sunday.	R. A. F. day raids on L'Orient (naval dockyards, submarine base); Kristiansand, Norway (military barracks, quayside warehouses) gas works at Esbjerg (Denmark), R. A. F. night raids on Brest (jetty, dry-dock, power-station); naval shipbuilding yards at Wilhelmshaven.	Nil.	..
December 2, Monday.	R. A. F. night raids on shipping off Norwegian coast; submarine base at L'Orient.	Nil.	..
December 3, Tuesday.	R. A. F. day raids on aerodromes in N. France. R. A. F. night raids on Rhine bridge and docks at Mannheim and Ludwigshaven; blast furnace plant at Essen; Rhineland railway communications; invasion base at Dunkirk.	1	..

The following are the figures of losses of aircraft due to enemy air raids on Britain, ascertained by competent authorities for the week ending 3rd December 1940 :—

Date.	British losses.	Enemy losses.
November 27	2 (Pilots safe.)	11
November 28	6 (1 pilot safe.)	5
November 29	2 (Pilots safe.)	5
November 30	2 (Pilots safe.)	5
December 1	5 (Pilots safe.)	8
December 2	..	2
December 3	..	..

TALKING POINTS

THE POSITION IN GREAT BRITAIN.

The shipping losses and the indiscriminate attacks on London and the British towns have been serious. But, as Lord Templemore told the House of Lords on Wednesday, their seriousness should not be exaggerated. He pointed out that the Navy and Air Force would be able to counter more and more effectively and finally defeat the serious menace to sea-borne trade. The Royal Air Force have been continually bombing U-boat bases in Northern and Western France, while the Coastal Command provided anti-submarine escorts for many convoys. News comes from the United States of a statement made by Rear Admiral E. S. Land, Chairman of the Maritime Commission, that the United States, despite many sales, had a reservoir of old vessels, which could be sold abroad. Alarmist reports, therefore, about British shipping in the neutral press have to be discounted, because Britain has already passed the low water mark in regard both to merchant shipping and the supply of escort vessels, in respect of both of which the position will be very much stronger in the coming weeks.

The raids on the towns are merely an extension of the night raids on London. It must be remembered that night raids are indiscriminate and experience shows that the damage to the war effort and civilian morale is proportionately no greater than in London. Night raid has been resorted to by Germans following the example of the Royal Air Force and it is known that special schools for night flying have been established in Poland; but Britain's war effort has not been much affected because the attacks have not been concentrated on military objectives. One further point that must be noticed is that, while Great Britain publishes all damage and casualties except in regard to details which might be of value to the enemy, the policy of Germany is to place a thick veil over such damage which is of course known to have been much more considerable and serious. Out of 35 road and railway bridges across the Thames in London not one has been put out of action.

THE MORALE OF THE BRITISH PEOPLE.

So far as morale of the Londeners and people in the towns is concerned, Mr. Hannen Swaffer wrote recently :—

After the all-night warning,
I looked across the square,
It was another morning—
And London was still there!

London has been saved because " of the native heroism of its citizens ". Their calm cheerfulness is wonderful. This is reflected by the posters, some of which read as follows :—

" Hitler cancels his visit to London," "Churchill to visit Berlin instead," " Hilter's room ready at Battersea Dogs' Home."

For the first few days the people were excited about their over-night experiences. Now they are considered to be mere repetition or boredom. Mr. Swaffer further points out that a thousand deeds of heroism take place between dusk and dawn every night and nurses, priests, ministers, Royal Air Force workers, firemen and demolition squads are the heroes. The writer also points out : " A new-born comaraderie is spreading abroad. A new comradeship is being born. Soon perhaps, ' East is East and West is West ' will no longer be true of London. All classes have tasted together the cup of sorrow—the King and the Coster, the Countess and the Perly Queen. Our purses are low—but our heads are carried high. We are bloody—but we are unbowed. For the common citizen has taken on a measure of greatness. He is living history. By his resolution and his coolness, he is saving all mankind."

A BALANCE SHEET.

The battle of Mediterranean is not showing any better success so far as Hitler is concerned than the battle of England and the battle of Atlantic will soon change for the better so far as England is concerned, thanks to the measures which are being taken. It will be useful to draw up a balance sheet of the position on the 1st of July and on the 1st of December. On the 1st of July, there was imminent danger of invasion. Great loss had resulted in goods and equipment. The army and the fleet in the Mediterranean had become considerably weakened owing to the defection of France. The Royal Air Force was still young and had not put out its fangs because of the overwhelming strength of the enemy. America and other neutrals had almost given up all hope of Great Britain coming through the ordeal and German prestige was very high owing to her remarkable successes.

What is the position on the 1st of December? (1) Astonishing re-equipment of the British Army has taken place. (2) The Royal Navy has been strengthened and is supreme in all the seas. (3) The Royal Air Force, by its raids over Germany, occupied countries, Northern Africa, Italy and Albania, has shown to be " on the top of the world." (4) There is not much talk of invasion now, though the danger has not disappeared. (5) Italy's navy has been crippled and Sidi Barrani has been captured. (6) Although Hitler is making frantic attempts to rope in Balkan States his attempts have so far failed to induce Bulgaria and Yugoslavia to walk into his parlour. (7) The British blockade is more and more felt to be effective. (8) American help has come and is coming in, in ever increasing measure. (9) There is now increasing confidence among friends of Great Britain and the neutral countries that Great Britain will win.

Italy

The following are the points in regard to Italy which are of significance :—

1. Within 56 hours of the commencement of the operations by the British Forces in

Egypt, helped by the Free French Forces, Sidi Barrani has been captured. Sidi Barrani, it will be remembered, is the base about 60 miles east of the Libyan-Egyptian frontier from which Marshal Graziani hoped by sending his forces in all directions to subjugate Egypt and capture the Suez Canal. The British forces have been helped by the Royal Air Force and the British Navy, and a wedge has now been driven by British penetration between Sollen and Sidi Barrani threatening to cut off Italian supply bases.

2. The Free French Forces in Chad are harrying the Italians in Southern Libya.

3. The Royal Air Force is busy over foreign bases in Italy and in Albania and worrying the retreating troops in Albania.

4. The Greeks are thrusting deeply into Albania at numerous points. After the fall of Argycocastro and Santi Quaranta the whole of Southern Albania is in Greek hands. The Italians are now trying to hold the Elbasan-Berat-Valona line, taking up positions in the Tomoro Mountains. But the Greeks are relentlessly pursuing them. The oil supplies in Albania from which Italy is getting more than one half of its normal requirements, is now being threatened by the Greeks.

5. Italy now finds itself without many of the raw materials mainly owing to the effectiveness of the British blockade.

6. She is now cut off from the Dodicanese Islands and from Northern Africa.

7. Marshal Badoglio, Chief of the General Staff of the Italian armed forces has resigned and so have General de Veecchi, Commander of the Italian forces in the Aegean area and of Admiral Cavagnari, Chief of the Italian Naval Staff. The reason is that Mussolini is not satisfied with their conduct in the Greek Campaign, and it has now been established that these army and navy leaders were opposed to the Italian invasion in Greece. The blow to Italian morale by the resignation of these trusted leaders is stated to be very considerable. Marshal Graziani, who is not known to be very friendly to Mussolini, has now had his first big defeat by the British capture of Sidi Barrani. But it is yet early to say anything definite about the operations in Egypt because Marshal Graziani is a great soldier. Any further developments of operations will probably depend on the progress now being made; but that progress has been astonishingly successful.

8. Mussolini embarked upon the Greek adventure because he was dissatisfied with the way in which Hitler ignored him as regards Italian claims on France. Italian reverses both in land, air and sea, may ultimately end in Italy passing completely under Nazi control, a consummation which Italians are not likely to look with complacence. The position so far as Greece is concerned is very satisfactory and Greeks have every chance of maintaining their favourable military position in Albania until the spring, when the British Forces in the Eastern Mediterranean may have so far made its position strong as to be able to afford greater help to Greeks.

9. The Italian Air Force has been demonstrated to be very inferior. Air Craft is mediocre. The pilots are not very efficiently trained and generally speaking the Italian Airmen are known to have no faith in the war. The aircraft is slow and indifferently armed.

The Far East

Many developments have taken place in the Far East. Russia has stated that the policy of Soviet Union towards China remained unchanged. This is a very important statement, because Moscow has rarely made such declarations so far. It also means reiteration of the Russian friendship with the Chiang-Kai-Shek regime. It could not have been otherwise because the terms of the announcement of Japan's recognition of the Nanking puppet Government, included an Anti-Commintern clause. The Moscow statement further shows that the reported Soviet-Japanese negotiations are not proceeding as satisfactorily as Japan might desire. Therefore, it is obvious that Japan's plan of "New Order in Asia" has already had a severe set back, one reason for which is Russian non-co-operation. Another reason, of course, is America's attitude which is considerably stiffening more than ever before. Both America and Great Britain have promised monetary assistance to China. Pig iron, ferro-alloys and certain iron and steel manufactures and semi-manufactures to Japan are to be controlled. This means a serious blow to Japan. Tokio has recently made a declaration on foreign policy, in which it is stated that she would have to rush to the help of Germany if America enters the war. This is a formal pronouncement designed to show Japan's anxiety to demonstrate her sincerity in joining the Axis.

Haj Pilgrims

The first ship carrying Haj pilgrims from India has arrived at its destination. Italy is now boasting that this is due to the fact that it had permitted the ship to pass through without any molestation on her part. This, of course, is nonsense. The British Government have carefully thought out the whole plan mostly calculated for the protection of the ships from dangers of enemy action. Sailings have been arranged, as was stated in a Communiqué published on October 31, in the danger zone and many facilities have been provided. Ibn Saud has expressed his satisfaction at these facilities on his own behalf and on behalf of the Muslim world. It is obvious that the pilgrimage has been made possible only because of the British command of the seas and it is ridiculous, in the circumstances, that Italy should say that she has granted sea-faring facilities. As a matter of fact, she can grant no facilities to any one in any part of the world, because she has no command of the seas.

SHALL EUROPE BE FED?

THE PROBLEM BEFORE AMERICA AND GREAT BRITAIN

Lord Lothian, British Ambassador at Washington, whose premature and sudden death on Thursday last is widely deplored, emphatically stated on Tuesday last that Great Britain was quite opposed to the idea of allowing food supplies to reach Germany and the occupied countries in Europe though the blockade will be relaxed in respect of medical supplies.

Lord Lothian said that the British Government had decided that it was "not able to give permission for the passage of food through the blockade" and added that it "had been reluctantly forced to the conclusion that under present conditions, any such scheme must be of material asistance to Germany's war effort and would, therefore, postpone the day of liberation of these peoples from German subjugation." Lord Lothian further said that any shortage of food in the occupied countries was solely due to German action and from the information at the British Government's disposal, "the risk of starvation has been greatly exaggerated." The statement declared that it "would be no service to these people to send food if it means the prolongation of their slavery" and further added: "However, Britain is prepared to facilitate the passage through the blockade of medical supplies destined for distribution in territories occupied by Germany and in unoccupied France by approved bodies."

British Ministers have on more than one occasion expressed the same view. Great Britain is fighting for her very existence and it would be suicidal on her part, therefore, to feed the German guns and prolong human slaughter.

THE HOOVER PLAN

It will be remembered that the question was first mooted about four months ago by Mr. Cudahy, the United States Ambassador in Brussels, who issued an appeal to America on behalf of the people in occupied countries. Then Mr. Hoover took up this question. It may be stated that Mr. Hoover was the head of the American Relief Administration in the Great War. He went to Europe a week after the Armistice for arranging prompt supplies of foodstuffs to starving Europe. Afterwards, Mr. Hoover became Director-General of Relief, and, as a result of the efforts of the Supreme Council of Supply and Relief, over four million tons of food and clothing were delivered to the hard-hit European countries, apart from Belgium and Russia. Out of this Germany received nearly one-fourth. Mr. Hoover, therefore, has great experience of the intricacies of this problem and his anxiety to ameliorate the conditions of the people who are starving is intelligible. He said, following Mr. Cudahy, that 27 million innocent civilians in Norway, Holland, Belgium, Poland and France were faced with starvation, death and disease. He advocated the setting up of a neutral non-governmental organization to distribute food to the value of 28 million tons a month rising to 40 millions in due time. The moral issue thus raised is being debated throughout America with heat and fervour. There are many supporters of Mr. Hoover who say that something should be done.

Pros and Cons

The two views were clearly stated by "The New Republic" for instance, a few weeks ago. It stated on 21st October:—

"America has seldom been confronted with a more tragic and puzzling dilemma than the question whether we should try to feed those large parts of Europe in which hunger is likely to occur this winter. And responsible American opinion is more divided about this question than about any other international issue.

"The debate presents strong arguments on both sides. There is no doubt that France —especially unoccupied France—Belgium, Poland and other conquered people will be in dire need. Our warehouses are bursting with surplus foodstuffs. What could be more necessary than to prevent the ravages of malnutrition among millions? Its effects, if long continued, may last for a generation. At the same time the producers would be glad of a market. Herbert Hoover, the Quakers and many others take this attitude.

"On the other side, it is recognized that, in order to feed these populations, we should have to persuade or compel Britain, fighting for her life, to relax the blockade. Britain is superior over her enemy only in sea power, and the principal offensive asset of sea power is to blockade Germany. This stranglehold comes near being the one hope of democracy in Europe. Nothing could be worse for the future of the peoples concerned, and for ours, than a decisive victory for Hitler's regime, which might endure more than a generation. To prevent that, many soldiers and civilians have already died, and it is mere sentimentalism to wish that their sacrifice should be nullified for the sake of avoiding temporary hunger. Feeding the subject populations would be a risk, because every pound of food sent to territory controlled by the Nazis makes their task of supplying the German army and civilian population easier by so much.

Problem Exaggerated

Is there really such a food problem in Europe? If there is one, how is Great Britain responsible for it? Excluding Russia, Turkey and British Isles, it may be stated that the danger of starvation has been greatly exaggerated. Europe is self-sufficient in the matter of food supplies to the extent of 90 per cent. Poland and the States of the Danube ordinarily export food and with proper conservation of foodstuffs they should not suffer. The problem is different in the case of Norway,

Belgium, Holland and Denmark which have to import foodstuffs. Ordinarily they take good care to preserve stocks. The root of the whole trouble is that Germany has stolen stocks of food from all the countries she has occupied—Denmark's pigs and poultry, Belgium's grains and livestock, Norway's fish and so on. Strict rationing has been introduced in Poland, Holland and Belgium. Germany has always been boasting that she has enough stocks of foodstuffs. For instance, on August 11th, Dr. Funk said : " England's position was catastrophic, particularly in food supplies; Germany's food supplies were absolutely assured and the British blockade was so thoroughly broken that a food scarcity in Germany was now impossible." Though Nazi propagandists will say that Great Britain will be responsible if Europe starves, the blame surely lies on Germany because, if she distributes stocks of food supplies equitably, there will be absolutely no danger of starvation. The responsibility for deficiency in stocks or for maldistribution is of course Germany's.

American opinion is however divided. Gallup Poll is against sending food supplies from America, for that will strengthen Hitler's hands; and even Middle-West farmers in America who will profit by sending food-supplies to Europe, are opposed to the project because Germany would be strengthened by such a measure.

Mr. Brailsford's Solution

Mr. Brailsford has put forward the following proposal for dealing with this problem :—

Exports of foodstuffs raised in the occupied countries shall bear to their present production a ratio no greater than their total exports of such foodstuffs bore to their average production during the three last years of peace. Home-raised foodstuffs supplied to the army of occupation shall be reckoned as exports. A neutral commission shall supervise the import and distribution of food, and shall issue licences for any permissible export, as hereby defined, of foodstuffs. The Commission shall report monthly to the British Government, which will authorize it to import foodstuffs for the use of the populations of these countries, so long as it certifies that these conditions are observed.

This scheme would ensure that Germany could derive no advantage, indirect or direct, from the import into these countries of American food.

Another Proposal

The New Republic would stipulate certain conditions which should be scrupulously fulfilled before American food can reach Europe. These are—

1. The German Government should return to each conquered country the foodstuffs she has stolen from it and these will be turned over to the American Relief organization.

2. The German Government should afford facilities and allow freedom of movement and communication, complete autonomy, and all necessary warehousing and transportation facilities.

3. They should allow shipment to Britain through submarine and air of any food supplies that may be necessary to relieve distress in that country.

4. The Vichy Government should agree that the French naval forces at Martinique and other naval and air bases should be ceded to the United States.

Apart from their impracticability would Hitler concede to such an arrangement?

Experience in the Great War

Mr. Tom Topping, who was private secretary to the American Minister to Belgium in the late war, and was closely associated with relief work, pointed out in a newspaper article recently that, in spite of elaborate precautions, there was a steady leakage of foodstuffs destined for the civilian population into the hands of the German army of occupation. He reports that several hundred tons of wheat disappeared between Rotterdam and Liege in the summer of 1916 and that Germans broke into one of the warehouses of the Commission for the Relief of Belgium at Ghent and carried away large quantities of lard, fats and bacon. A number of German soldiers and officers billeted in private homes and hotels in Brussels, Antwerp, Ghent and Liege fattened themselves on the Commission's imported food. " I heard on good authority," he said, " that the entire staff of Crown Prince Rupprecht of Bavaria quartered in a chateau near Lille waxed fat for months on C.R.B. delicacies." What happened during the Great War may happen again if American foodstuffs are allowed into the continent of Europe by the British blockade.

A Sensible Solution

Another proposal made is that there should be an agreement between Great Britain and America to store foodstuffs and other necessary articles and ship them to countries on the continent of Europe as and when Germans withdraw from them. As the ' Economist ' pointed out recently, the existence of such a reserve and such a machinery for distribution should be made the basis of British propaganda on the continent. At the same time the surplusses of South America can be bought up, say at an expenditure of £100 millions, for such a contingency. Humanitarian feelings of America are allright and Goebbels may rave about the British inhumanity; but the point is, as the *Time and Tide* points out, " If Europe lacks bread it is because Goering has loaded the wheat on to the trains to feed his troops and every sack of wheat sent to Europe feeds the Nazi, prolongs the war, means more and more deaths by slaughter and therefore threatens that collapse of Britain which would land Hitler in the West Indies and Newfoundland, on the doorstep of Panama and New York."

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JAPAN IN INDO-CHINA

A STORY OF FRENCH SURRENDER

The following article by Mr. O. M. Green in "Great Britain and the East" published on October 3rd, 1940, has peculiar interest in view of developments in the Far East. It was written, of course, before the Burma Road was re-opened :—

It is now possible to piece together the confused story of the Japanese bludgeoning . . . there is no other word for it—of Indo-China. Admiral Decoux clearly did his best to save the colony but he was hamstrung by Vichy. While he was striving to fend off General Nishihara, the fort was being sold in Tokyo by M. Henry, the French Ambassador.

Japan's forcefulness

Tokyo's policy was to get what it wanted under a diplomatic fiction of ostensibly friendly agreement. These evidently were the instructions sent to General Nishihara. But no pretences could conceal the determined aim, and on September 5, as Admiral Decoux was proving stiffer, General Nishihara presented something in the nature of an ultimatum. Admiral Decoux managed to obtain a fortnight's grace. But two new elements now came into play. On the northern borders of Indo-China the Japanese Army, commanded by General Ando, an arrogant representative of the ferocious "young officer" class, began to show signs of losing patience. At the same time, the Japanese Navy massed a powerful force in Indo-Chinese waters.

Admiral Decoux's appeals to Vichy were merely answered by orders to give way. He made one last effort. On September 10, he told General Nishihara that he would agree to the landing of only 12,000 troops, and that all Japanese forces must be withdrawn from Indo-China as soon as they had established themselves in Yunnan.

This was not enough to satisfy either Japan or Vichy. On September 23rd came the fatal news that Decoux had been obliged to sign an agreement giving the Japanese the right to establish three air basis in Tonking, to land 6,000 troops to supervise them—some reports say 60,000; the exact number is immaterial.

The statement issued by Vichy to cover this humiliating surrender completely ignores Admiral Decoux and shows that it was arranged by M. Henry in Tokyo "in a friendly atmosphere" and "with a view to contributing towards a new order in East Asia and a solution of the China question." A worse piece of hypocrisy to attempt to hide a cruel breach of neutrality to China it would be hard to find!

The surrender, however, was not quick enough to stop the firebrands in South China, and two hours before the signing General Ando had launched an attack on the northern border. Sharp fighting took place at Dongdang.

At this Admiral Decoux took the law into his own hands and threatened to call off the agreement signed with General Nishihara. The latter flew to Dongdang to endeavour to calm Ando, with what result is not quite clear, as there have been reports of more fighting and the Japanese are said to have advanced to the important post of Langson. But really what happens in Northern Tonking makes no difference. The Japanese have got their agreement out of the servile 'old men' of Vichy, and repudiations by Admiral Decoux can achieve nothing but to make matters worse for himself. On September 26, a message from Tokyo claimed that the "peaceful landing" of Japanese troops at Haiphong had been completed.

Thailand's claim

The outlook for the future is further darkened by the Siamese demands for the cession of the Laos country and two provinces under a threat of refusing to ratify the non-aggression pact concluded with Indo-China last June. Historically, Thailand's claim has justification, as she was compelled to cede these territories to France at the beginning of this century by *force majeure*. But it is safe to assume that the present demand would not have been made without Japanese encouragement, not to say instigation. For many years, Japan has been paying assiduous court to Thailand, and on September 20 a military "goodwill" mission from Thailand arrived in Tokyo, to be hailed

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Mr. Laski's Views

(*Continued from Page 8*)

In this connexion Mr. Harold J. Laski's views on this point are partinent—

"War, at best, is a stark tragedy; nothing can conceal its dim proportions. We, British socialists, do not confront without deep pain the thought, for instance, that our blockade this winter will cause hunger and suffering to millions of our European comrades. Yet we have to steel ourselves to the understanding that the blockade is a necessary condition of victory, that it would be irrational sentimentality to provide Hitler with the resources that could have no other effect than the prolongation of the conflict. War is stark tragedy; there is not one item in its waging that I would glorify. But I would add that the German and Italian leaders who denounce our blockade are the men who glorify war, the men who make their whole peoples a machine for war, the men who are not ashamed to make even the training of little children part of the sacrifice it exacts. When you think of Europe this winter, put the responsibility for the suffering squarely on the outlaw tyrants who have sacrificed the peace and hope of the world to their lust for domination."

by the Japanese as "an important move in the promotion of closer ties between the two countries."

The Chinese scoff at the idea that the Japanese aims are limited to an attack from a new direction on themselves, although they are not blind to the danger to the Burma Road from the air bases which Japan will have in Indo-China. "Japan," they say sarcastically, "could attack us just as unsuccessfully from Kwangsi as from Indo-China. What she wants is a jumping-off ground for further ambitions."

No one will be inclined to question the accuracy of this prophecy. How far Vichy believes the assurance which it says it has obtained from Japan that she will respect "the territorial integrity of Indo-China and the sovereign rights of France over all parts of the Indo-Chinese Union," is known only to itself. But from the Nine-Power Treaty onwards Japan has given too many similar assurances and interpreted them according to her own peculiar translation of plain language for any one else to attach the slightest weight to her promises to France.

For the moment the important thing is what the Chinese will do. On August 28, Dr. Wang Chunghui, the Chinese Foreign Minister, stated that if Japan invaded Indo-China, China would not hesitate to send troops into that country. He repeated this declaration on September 8, and there is every reason to believe that it will be kept. We know that for several weeks China has been massing a large force on the border. The Northern Tonking country is ideal for the tactics which the Chinese have been cultivating with success in the past two years and they ought to be able to give the Japanese no small trouble.

It is unnecessary to dwell on Japan's further ambitions. They are apparent in a single glance at the map, as also their extreme danger to Great Britain. And it cannot be emphasised too strongly that the only barrier to their realization is China.

From many sources it is believable that Japanese internal and financial position is very much weaker than she pretends. The Chinese determination to fight on is utterly unshaken, and in spite of the closure of Indo-China and the Burma Road she still has ample resources. America has given valuable help not only in the new loan to China, but in stopping the export of steel and scrap to Japan, in addition to that of high-grade petrol. If we wish to defeat Japan's ambitions and to safeguard our position east of the Bay of Bengal, there is at present but the one way—to reopen the Burma Road and to give all possible help to China. It is the bold way, but boldness usually pays.

WAR AIMS

Britain's first war aim, as Mr. Churchill has recently declared, is survival. On Britain's survival and victory depends the possibility of all peoples achieving peaceful progress.

India's first war aim is the same—survival. No programme of any party can be carried through unless the Nazi threat is successfully resisted.

WHAT IS THE THREAT?

Writing in the Lahore *Tribune*, Mr. Narendra Nath Kholsa asks:

"Has not Hitler openly been asking for colonies? Is he not an imperialist? If he is, can we in India hope to be free if he wins the present war? Whatever the German propaganda over the radio in these days, we must not forget that with Hitler it is a principle of life that all non-European countries should be ruled by Europeans."

AFTER EUROPE?

If to-day the whole of Europe is not under the Nazi heel it is not through any restraint by Hitler and his accomplices.

If boasts were not sufficient, the illimitable Nazi-Fascist ambitions would be proved by the Rome-Berlin-Tokyo Pact, by the so-called "New Order" for Europe, Asia and Africa, and by the present enemy attempts to drive south-east towards Asia.

HITLER OVER INDIA

Here are a few Nazi plans for Indians, or "Asiatic mountebanks" as Hitler calls them in *Mein Kampf*.

"*It is possible*," writes the Nazi Dr. Gunther Hecht, "*to use the native in industry and on the plantations. He should not, however, be allowed to strike or to form any trade union organization. . . The native must be kept in his own home and sphere. In no circumstances must he be brought to Europe, be it as a servant, labourer or student. . . he must be barred from the theatres, picture-houses and health-resorts of the white population.*"

ONE MORE BROKEN PROMISE

For those who still believe the soft words of Nazi propaganda in India, the fate of the French province of Lorraine provides the latest example of Hitler's perfidy.

Lorraine has been annexed for the sake of its iron-mines and other resources. 70,000 Frenchmen are robbed and driven from their homes. In 1935 Hitler said in his Reichstag Speech:

"We finally renounce Alsace-Lorraine".

THE PRICE OF VICTORY

No war can be won cheaply, least of all a war on the present scale.

Britain realizes this, and is spending every day £9·1 million or about Rs. 2 as. 12 per head of her population.

India is spending on her own defence, 20 lakhs a day, or about one pie per head of her population.

"From our point of view, it is not the amount that matters. What really matters is the motive to see Britain successful in this struggle "—*Sir Sikander Hyat Khan, Punjab Premier, November* 27.

Nothing Less than the Best

Against a long-prepared enemy who has specialized in modern mechanical weapons, Britain and India must have the best in arms and equipment. A warplane, for instance, now costs about seven times what it did in the last war.

Since the outbreak of war, the British output of war material has been more than trebled, and in some categories quadrupled.

And then there is America.

"*If I were a German*", declared Mr. A. B. Purvis, head of the British Purchasing Commission in the U. S. A., "*I should be very worried at the situation that will grow up during next year, by which time the United States will be supplying us with ever-increasing amounts of war material, and especially aeroplanes*".

Finding the Money.

Britain has placed orders in America for nearly £1,000,000,000 worth of war material. How is this paid for?

These are honest business transactions, and American goods are paid for in American dollars. Britain derives this American currency, first from her exports to the United States (or to anybody who has dollars to spare) and secondly from British assets abroad.

Exports are the product of British industry, already heavily engaged on the biggest war effort of all time. They cannot be expanded at the same rate as imports are expanded in war. The huge volume of Britain's imports of war necessities is a resounding refutation of the German claim to "blockade" Britain.

Assets of Britain abroad at the beginning of the war were something like £4 thousand millions, with a gold reserve of well over £500 millions, and not counting the foreign investments of Empire countries.

British credit is thus ample to pay for war imports for very many years.

America Wants Cash

America's decision to supply war material to Britain on the "cash and carry" basis was a departure from the usual custom in these vast transactions. In terms of ready cash, Britain's assets are like the assets of any sound business firm. It is only a proportion of them that is immediately realizable.

What Lord Lothian Meant

That is the meaning of Lord Lothian's indication that Britain's available dollar resources were being rapidly depleted. The problem of financing war imports from America is a great and complicated one. **But to be short of ready cash is not to be bankrupt.** If it were, how could even the smallest business-man carry on, in India or elsewhere?

The Problem Will be Solved

Britain and the Empire are tackling the problem by ruthlessly cutting home consumption, excluding unnecessary imports, and exporting to the utmost.

"**America,**" cables the New York correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian*, "will not permit the slightest danger of the war effort being weakened because of funds growing scarce."

MISLEADING STATEMENTS IN ENEMY BROADCASTS

BROADCASTS IN ENGLISH

Nothing to-day, Thank You

The Berlin radio is vociferously trying to cover up Germany's recent diplomatic defeat, as exemplified by the refusal of the few remaining European neutrals to take Hitler's "New Order" seriously. Thus the *Hamburger Frem denblatt* is quoted (November 26) as saying that "the Three-Power Pact is continually finding more nations willing to co-operate with it." If they find them, why don't they put them in the window? So far, the Nazis have been able to persuade only Hungary, Rumania and Slovakia to sign on the dotted line—and no one expected them to do otherwise.

On the same subject, Berlin says that "another quietening factor" has been Bulgaria's denial of "an alarmist British report" that Bulgaria had sent an ultimatum to Greece and concentrated troops on the Greek and Turkish frontiers.

No such report was ever put out by any British source—but there was a report from Berlin last week that Bulgarian statesmen were on their way there to range their country under the Axis banner. And Bulgaria did deny that one.

On the subject of Rumania—that standing example of the virtues of Axis protection—the Nazi radio quotes a Bucharest paper as saying that General Antonescu's visit to Berlin was "in fulfilment of the political testament of the Iron Guard Leader, Codreanu."

On the General's return to Bucharest, the Nazis arranged for the fulfilment of another part of Codreanu's testament—that of revenge. The murder of 64 prominent politicians and 2 ex-Premiers was carried out by Iron Guard members—whose leader, M. Sima, is Vice-Premier in the Rumanian cabinet—and no action has yet been taken against them.

As we should expect, Hitler and Mussolini showed their fellow-feeling with these thugs by sending wreaths to the re-internment ceremony of Codreanu, the man who began the whole political murder racket in Rumania.

As Others See Them

Berlin quotes (December 3) an Italian communiqué which says: "Enemy attacks were repulsed on the Greek front. When the Italians launched counter-attacks the Greeks suffered heavy losses".

The Turkish radio, on the other hand, quotes the Moscow paper *Krasnaya Suesda*, in which Colonel Petroff, of the Red Army, examines the Italo-Greek war. He says: "The war did not develop in favour of Italy from the beginning. This is because the Italians believed that they were capable of launching lightning warfare against Greece. Their mistake was tragic, the intervention of the British Air Force having constituted the main item of assistance to Greece...... The Italians had to leave munitions in Greek hands, and by the end of the third week their position was altogether grave in Albania."

On November 28 the Germans quote an Italian communiqué which claimed that two days earlier an Italian submarine "sank two merchant ships out of a strongly protected convoy in the Red Sea." All ships known to have been anywhere in the Red Sea on November 26, are officially declared in British quarters to be safe—which only goes to demonstrate how dangerous it is for the guileless Germans to gaze into Mussolini's mirrors of truth.

Guide to Plymouth

The German radio has destroyed Plymouth almost as often and as completely as it has destroyed London; and on November 29 it speaks of Plymouth as an important commercial port and industrial centre, going on to refer to the havoc wrought on "the great loading installation of the Great Western Docks and the Cattewater."

The Cattewater is a shallow creek that can accommodate only small coasting vessels, while the Great Western Docks derive their name, not from their size, but from the railway company which owns them. At most, these docks provide berths for a dozen small ships, and are equipped with only two cranes and one grain elevator. Facilities are provided at Plymouth only for the most minor repairs, since the docks were built primarily to accommodate the small tenders which meet Trans-Atlantic liners in the road-stead. The fact that even the smallest of these liners cannot come alongside the quay, but must anchor in the outer harbour—more than a mile from shore—proves that Plymouth can hardly be ranked as an important commercial port.

But the Nazis have not finished with "bumping up" the commercial and industrial importance of Plymouth—no doubt in order to distract attention from their bombers' failure to pierce the defences of the great naval base which lies well inland, some five miles up the Hamoaze (i.e., the estuary of the River Tamar). "At Plymouth," says Berlin, "there are also sugar refineries, starch and soap factories, sail-cloth factories, a glass furnace and a well-developed wood-pressing industry." It is true that Plymouth once possessed a solitary sugar refinery, but that was long ago turned into a wireless transmitting station—which has in turn been closed down "for the duration." Sail-cloth is manufactured on a small scale to meet the needs of the local fishing fleet, which in recent years has dwindled to about 20 forty-foot vessels; there is one small soap-factory, employing less than 500 workers; while wood is imported in quantities only sufficient to supply Plymouth's local building requirements.

Out of their Own Mouths

The Nazi radio (November 27) accuses the Royal Air Force of being fair-weather airmen. "Contrary to the Royal Air Force, which often for days on end ceases its activities altogether," boasts the announcer "neither storms nor frost, neither fog nor rain, can prevent German bombers from continuing their incessant hammering."

Two minutes earlier the same voice had read out a German Supreme Command communiqué which said: "Owing to unfavourable weather conditions, the German Air Force restricted its activity on Monday night and yesterday to armed reconnaissance and operations by planes flying singly."

"The British censor apparently insists on journalists omitting all reference to industrial or military objectives hit by German planes," complains the Nazi announcer on the same day—and then proceeds to quote an American journalist's report that "German raiders had effectively bombed numerous military objectives," and an American agency report from London that "the concentrations of German night attacks on British industrial centres was crippling the prodution of armaments."

BROADCASTS IN ASIATIC LANGUAGES

Without Comment

From Italian broadcast in Arabic, November 27:—

"The situation in the Balkans continues to be entirely satisfactory to Italy."

From the Turkish broadcast in Arabic of the same day:—

"The Italians armed the Albanians to use them against the Greeks—The Albanians are now using the same arms against Italy........ Albanians have sabotaged oil tanks and set them on fire. In short Albania has become a hell for the Italians."

From the Italian broadcast in Arabia, November 28:—

"All the Albanians are prepared to sacrifice their lives for the sake of Italy."

Like unto Like

Once again the Germans repeat the canard (November 29) that the food situation is difficult in Britain and that there is a shortage of milk.

As a matter of fact milk is not even rationed in Britain and its consumption is running at about 14 per cent above pre-war level.

There are thousands of milk bars in the country and milk is obtainable free or at a reduced price by expectant and nursing mothers, school children and children under five. The Germans also talk about the scarcity of meat which again is not being rationed on a weight basis. Everyone is entitled to 1 shilling 10 pence worth per week—which is practically the average pre-war consumption per head.

As against this it is noteworthy that on November 15 the Nazis legalized dogs' meat which is being publicly sold in Germany since December 1. Nazi officials now go about in the streets inspecting the latest addition to the German citizens' already rather peculiar diet. It seems the Germans have discovered that dogs have food value "quite as high as beef".

Finance and Falsehood

The Germans make one of their periodic attacks on the financial position of Britain, which country they compare to a drowning man. Both overseas trade figures and the result of the National Savings Campaign, which completed its first year on November 22, tell a different tale.

British overseas trade figures published on November 27 reveal an increase of £230,000,000 during the first ten months of this year compared with the same period of last year which included eight months of peace. This incidentally knocks the bottom out of the extravagant claims that the Germans make of their success of their blockade of Britain and their aerial and submarine attacks on shipping. As for National Savings, Sir Robert Kindersley, President of the National Savings Committee announced on November 27 that the objective of £475,000,000 for the first year of the War has been exceeded.

The magnitude of this effort is evident from the fact that in the three years 1916—1918 the total raised by Savings Certificates did not exceed £280,000,000. Another significant fact is that bankers' deposits have risen by over £10 million to the high figure of £118,233,000. At the same time it should be noted that according to expert calculations the German expenditure for actual war purposes is proceeding at the rate of £4,000,000,000 a year as compared with the British expenditure of £3,000,000,000 a year.

The Italian jackal, smarting from unexpected Greek wounds, also barks excitedly (in Arabic, November 27) over the propaganda scrap provided by Lord Lothian's indication of the depletion of British dollar holdings. That orders to the amount of £1,000,000,000 should make a hole in Britain's supply of ready dollars is not difficult to understand.

American material aid is being honestly paid for on the American terms—unusual in such huge transactions—of spot cash. Every business-man, indeed every property-holder in India or elsewhere, knows that the financial position of an individual or a firm is not determined by the amount of foreign exchange he can produce at short notice. British credit abroad is amply sufficient to pay for many years of warfare on the present scale, and the New York correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* cables that America "will not permit the slightest danger of the war effort being weakened because of funds growing scarce."

An Old Stunt

The German trick of taking foreign journalists on "conducted tours" of bombed areas has been modified and adapted by the Italians, who claim (December 2) that foreign press correspondents have been shown the ships that took part in the naval battle off Sardinia and that they confirm the Italian version of the result. It is noteworthy that (i) the names of the alleged foreign correspondents are not mentioned, (ii) nor of the papers which they are supposed to represent, (iii) the Italians have all along taken good care not to give the names of the warships which took part in the battle (the British communiqué mentioned the

names of the principal units that took part including that of the *Ark Royal*), (iv) therefore nothing could have prevented the Italians from showing undamaged units to neutral journalists—if any were taken round.

It might be recalled that the Italians denied all but a fraction of the damage done to their fleet at Taranto. Subsequently the British version was supported not only by photographs taken by British reconnaissance planes, but also by the German paper *Frankfurter Zeitung* whose Rome correspondent Kercher, wrote: "The true happenings of Taranto are sad enough. Some devil-may-care, foolhardy British pilots succeeded in firing torpedoes, at Italian warships and damage was done to the young Italian Fleet. The loss suffered will be left for a long time."

N.B.—Please file the Madras War Review regularly for future reference.

[With the compliments of the Director of Information, Madras.]

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